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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 68, ISSUE NO. 9 | MAY 14, 2008 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

YES WE CAN

JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

Co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America, Dolores Huerta, gave a speech about the labor movement and its progress throughout the years, at the Main Stage Theater in Valley College last Wednesday. Student Karla Narvaez, a member of the Puente Club on Campus, said Huerta's message of unity was what drew her to the event.

Huerta Unites Valley Voices

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shouts of "Si se puede" echoed through Valley College's Main Stage Theater Wednesday as guest speaker and organized labor advocate Dolores Huerta lead the 300 students and faculty in attendance in the chant she helped make famous during her time working with the United Farm Workers.

Keeping with the theme of empowerment, Huerta reminded her audience, as she told the farm workers 40 years ago, of the power they hold and their responsibility to use it.

"Nothing is going to change unless you change it," she said. "Nobody's going to come in here and do it for you, you've got to stand up and you've got to do it for yourself."

Using the legacy of Huerta and the farm workers' movement, M.E.Ch.A. Co-chair Arlene Mejorado issued a call of action to Valley students.

"Let us unify as a generation of consciousness and evolution with the crucial and desperate times we live in."
- Arlene Mejorado

"Let us unify as a generation of consciousness and evolution with the crucial and desperate times we live in; let us say, 'Enough. Basta.' Let us be inspired by a mujer who has fought and keeps fighting for the dignity and rights of

see *Huerta* page 7

Club Psyched Out of Logo

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

Complaints made by a small number of students regarding the nature of a logo used in a club flier forced Club Psyche to remove the advertisements from around campus.

Student Services approved the fliers, which featured an anonymously drawn double-image of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud and a nude woman, on April 1. The club was told to remove the advertisements May 7, after Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services, forwarded the complaints of at least two students to the Inter Club Council. Delahoussaye does not remember the exact amount of complaints made.

"I'm all for allowing students to post the things that they want to post, but we unfortunately end up having to make a decision," Delahoussaye said. "From a psychology standpoint, I understand, but then I understand people who were offended because they are deeply religious …. Hopefully we can find a picture that folks don't find offensive and we can move on from there."

Club President Jenya Lano said that there is much confusion surrounding the removal the fliers.

see *Psyche* page 7

JOHNATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER - The short-lived logo for Valley College's Club Psyche is held by Amir Chapel, ICC representative of the club. The logo's sexual nature has been called obscene by some students.

Sustainability Speech Falls on Deaf Ears

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Armed with a power point presentation, Rinaldo Veseliza, senior project director of URS, gave a lecture on "The Basics of Sustainability: An Introduction to Green Practices" at the Main Stage Theater Thursday to shed light on the benefits of sustainable building.

"Sustainability is a word that has been used for lots of different things; what it really refers to in this particular case is a world that we design and that we build in a way that … will be self-supporting for a long time," Veseliza said.

Existing buildings represent 36 percent of overall energy use in the world, and are consumers of 30 percent of all raw materials. And while some new buildings comply with environmentally friendly guidelines, living buildings, 80 to 90 percent of them, are big generators of waste.

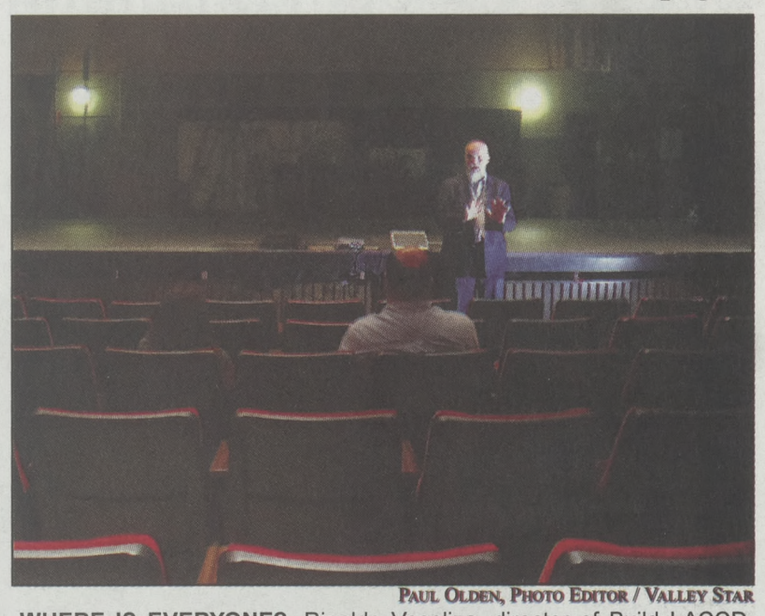
To make existing buildings more efficient, attention has been turning to their renovation, with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design promising points to constructors through a metric system created by the U.S. Green Building Council, providing standards for environmentally sustainable construction.

"You get points and credits …. for the kind of design you complete, and it's monitored over a long period of time, not just when the building is designed and you walk away from it and then suddenly the efficiency drops," Veseliza said.

There are four levels of certification: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each rank comes with a set of scores, and buildings are able to move along the point ladder. Point distribution comes from many different sources.

"If you pick a site that's an

see *Sustainable* page 7



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

WHERE IS EVERYONE?- Rinaldo Veseliza, director of Build LACCD, provides an update last Thursday on the green development programs in the Los Angeles Community College District. Veseliza's presentation was attended by four people in the Main Stage Theater.

Donation a Boost for Community Colleges

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Much like public radio, public schools compensate for the state's financial shortcomings through private philanthropic donations. The governor's impending $4.8 billion in education budget cuts force public bodies to seek private assistance, and that's just what's happening.

According to the Los Angeles Times, California community college students will benefit from a $50 million donation from the Bernard Osher Foundation, the largest single donation in history to the community

see *Donation* page 7

MANYA MARTIROSYAN / VALLEY STAR

HE'S NOT FILLING THE POOL YET - A worker at the Valley College pool construction site hoses down freshly dried concete; the pool will not be ready for use until July.

Valley Left High and Dry

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

As part of Valley College's ongoing construction, the school's new pools are expected to be finished by July. The date of completion was pushed back due to minor setbacks.

"The new pools will be great for the athletic programs, classes and the community," said Diedra Stark, leader of the Building User Group. "Our first priority is classes for the students, then our athletic teams, and then the community with lessons in summer for children."

Vice President of Administrative Services, Tom Jacobsmeyer, confirmed there are three pools being built: an Olympic-sized pool, a secondary pool and a warm-up pool "for divers to sit in to keep their muscles from cramping."

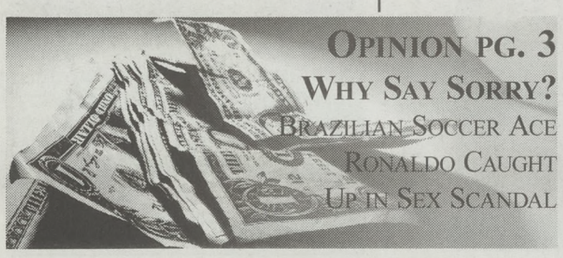
Renovations on the pools began in summer of 2007 and were due to be completed this June, but the date was pushed back to July due to minor delays. Senior Project Director of URS Cooperation Rinaldo Veseliza attributes the minor delays to "unexpected underground utilities that had to be relocated or rebuilt," while Jacobsmeyer says "rain" also caused a delay.

"At the moment, the pools are scheduled to open by July," Veseliza said. "It is moving along quickly."

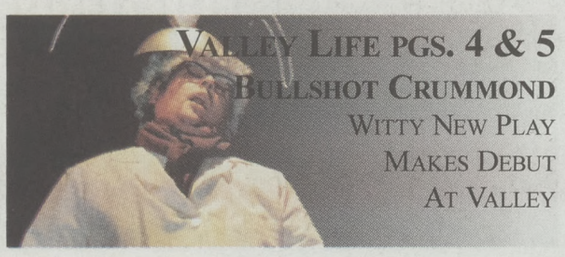
The renovated Olympic-sized pool is located south of the North gym, while the new disabled student's facility will be housed inside the North gym, which will include a new exercise room.

The secondary pool, located next to the larger pool, will have five 25-meter lanes, which will be reserved for the

see *Pool* page 7



OPINION PG. 3
WHY SAY SORRY?
BRAZILIAN SOCCER ACE RONALDO CAUGHT UP IN SEX SCANDAL



VALLEY LIFE PGS. 4 & 5
BULLSHOT CRUMMOND
WITTY NEW PLAY MAKES DEBUT AT VALLEY

SPORTS PG. 6
FALL PREVIEW
FOOTBALL, CROSS COUNTRY, SOCCER AND WATER POLO ARE ALL TO COME

GALLERY PG. 8
AU NATUREL
STUDENTS TAKE THE DAY TO GET ORGANIC

One Stop For Fall, Summer Studies

BY BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

GRACIELA SALGADO / VALLEY STAR

GETTING A HEAD START - Valley College students crowded into Monarch Hall Tuesday to work on their summer and fall semester schedules during One-Stop Registration day. Financial aid information and fee payment were available.

Students were lined up from Monarch Hall all the way to the Horseshoe Tuesday morning; they weren't waiting for Indiana Jones tickets, but to be the first to sign up for fall classes in Valley College's One Stop Registration.

The annual event allows students to get a jump on their online registration appointments and meet with financial aid representatives as well as talk with real life counselors. However, the event scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. did not get going until 8:30, creating some grumpy students.

"I was here at 6:20 a.m.," said student Penina Haas. "I really want to sign up for physiology and chemistry; they are really hard classes to get and my online appointment isn't until next week."

As the doors opened, students scrambled to find out which classes were still open. The walls of Monarch Hall were lined with class listings and those without a fall schedule waited with anticipation to see if they were not too late.

"This is the opportunity for them to do everything in one stop," said Associate Dean of Student Services Walter Jones. "They can register, see a counselor and pay their fees and get financial aid help all in one place."

Tables were full of information from various academic departments, with pamphlets describing the benefits of taking certain classes and majors. Most students, however had a determined focus rarely seen on campus; they wanted to beat the competition and get in and get to class.

"A lot of people beat me to the punch," said student Aram Sexenian. "I got here at 8 a.m., and I need to get into Honors Anthropology 101 and Judo."

Unlike last spring's one-stop registration, the computer system did not crash and many students left happy. Penina Haas was gushing as if she had just won the lottery as she finished paying her tuition.

"I got in, I got in!" she shouted, clutching her receipt like it was a golden ticket. "I am relieved and excited that I finally got into the classes I needed; and the computer system didn't shut down."

Students who missed out on the event can still register the old-fashioned way, in person at Admissions and Records, or spin the wheel and take their chances online or over the phone. Summer and fall class schedules are currently available in the Valley College Bookstore and at the Information Desk, located in the Admissions Building.

Democrats Go On and On

■ **Democratic Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barrack Obama still fight over the nomination, despite Obama's delegate lead.**

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

After a marginal win in Indiana and a loss in North Carolina May 6, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York vowed to stay in the Democratic race, despite Illinois Sen. Barrack Obama's lead in the pledged delegate and superdelegate counts.

"I'm staying in this race until there is a nominee, and obviously I'm going to work as hard as I can to become that nominee," Clinton said after an event in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where she was campaigning for the state's May 13 presidential primary. According to a poll released Friday by American Research Group, Clinton has a 43-point lead in the contest, receiving 66 percent to Obama's 23 percent.

After the results of the May 6 primaries, Clinton's lead in pledged superdelegates, Democratic officials who are free to support any candidate at the Democratic convention in August, slipped. By Sunday, Obama received enough endorsements to overtake Clinton; among the superdelegates who announced their support for the Illinois senator was Rep. Donald Payne of New Jersey, who switched from Clinton.

"After careful consideration, I have reached the conclusion that Barack Obama can best bring about the change that our country so desperately wants and needs," Payne said in an interview with the Star-Ledger in Newark, New Jersey. He described the decision as "one of the most difficult decisions I have made."

Reaclearpolitics.com shows the total delegate count, including the results from Indiana and North Carolina as Obama with 1,874 and Clinton at 1,698. The candidates continue to fight for their share of the 217 remaining pledged delegates that are up for grabs in the last six primaries. The winning candidate needs 2,025 of the 4,049 delegates to win the Democratic nomination.

"I'm staying in this race until there is a nominee, and obviously I'm going to work as I can to become that nominee."
- Hillary Clinton

"Informally, [Hillary] is in trouble obviously ... I think the most accurate thing to say about the election is, I just can't see how she gets there," said Anthony O'Regan, political science professor at

see *Election* page 7

Myanmar Govt. Rejects Foreign Aid

■ **Despite the efforts of many nations around the world, the government of Myanmar is barring the entry of aid into the stricken country.**

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

In what could be the greatest natural disaster in South Asia since the Boxing Day Tsunami that struck on Dec. 26 2004, the death toll from Cyclone Nargis may exceed 100,000. However, those who managed to endure are still at risk, due to lack of food, sanitary water and medical supplies.

President George W. Bush has said the United States wants to add to the contribution they have already made.

"Let the United States come and help you, help the people," Bush said.

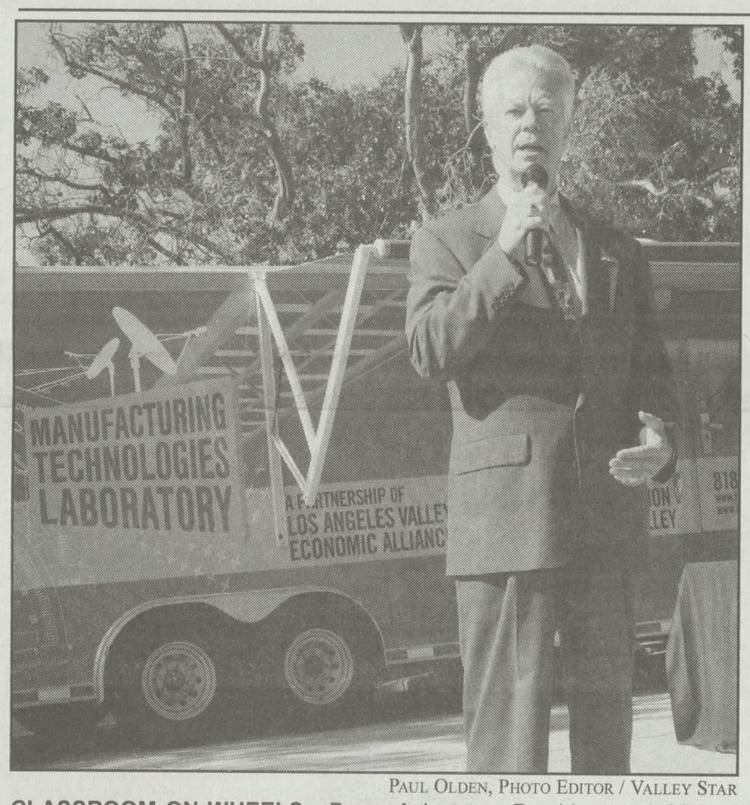
According to the New York Times, "Though the junta took the unusual step of asking for foreign assistance, the information minister suggested that only 'friendly countries' would be allowed to help."

With each passing day, the danger of disease increases, but Myanmar's military government has only recently begun to allow some international assistance due to their suspicion of foreign countries.

"The humanitarian situation in Myanmar was growing increasingly desperate with nearly 1.5 million people severely affected and a real danger that an even worse tragedy might unfold if urgently needed aid did not get in quickly," said John Holmes, Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator. "We are simply trying to help the Government of Myanmar to carry out their responsibilities to aid these people in increasingly desperate need ... there are no other political motives in this."

International relief agencies, including the United Nations World Food Programme, started mobilizing quickly to get workers and supplies on the ground in Myanmar. But their efforts were hampered by Myanmar's military rulers,

see *Myanmar* page 7



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

CLASSROOM ON WHEELS - Bruce Ackerman, President and CEO of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, spoke Tuesday at the unveiling of the mobile manufacturing technologies laboratory during a news conference in Monarch Square. The lab is funded through a $1.5 million U. S. Department of Labor Grant.

This Week in History

VALLEY STAR May 17, 1984

Play the Field – Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson made an appearance at Valley, booking out the campus football stadium. Nuclear disarmament and social justice were the topics up for discussion by Jackson, who was expected to speak to a capacity crowd. Jewish Studies professor Zev Garber planned to had out protest literature at the event, but said he was not associated with Irv Rubin of the Jewish Defense League, who said Jackson was a 'vicious Jew hater'.

• • •

Lock Out – Students were considering using bushes around campus to relieve themselves, after a contractor changed all the locks on the college bathrooms so they could not be damaged before a district inspection. Chuck Terrazas, the contractor who locked out the needy bathroom users, was ordered to cease locking the bathrooms by campus police, after which students and staff alike could get out of the bushes and into something more civilized.

• • •

Patience, Patience – 678 students lined up to receive their appointments to select their intersession classes on the first day of summer registration. Counseling was similarly backed up, with students taking a ticket to be advised. Counselors were churning through students at one appointment every three to five minutes in order to have everyone seen.

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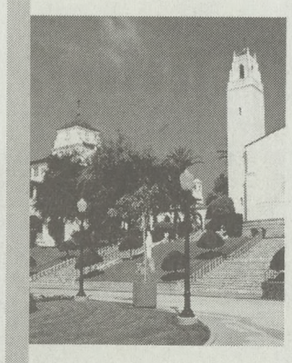

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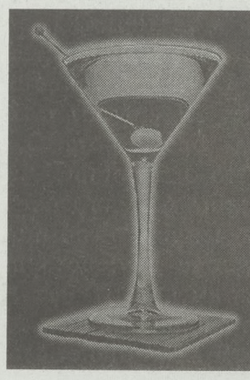

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OPINION

ONE-WAY-OR-*ANOTHER*

Endless Contradictions

BY SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

American adults in this decade have certainly become more accustomed to being bombarded with media that promotes violence, drug use and sexual acts more than at any other time in our history.

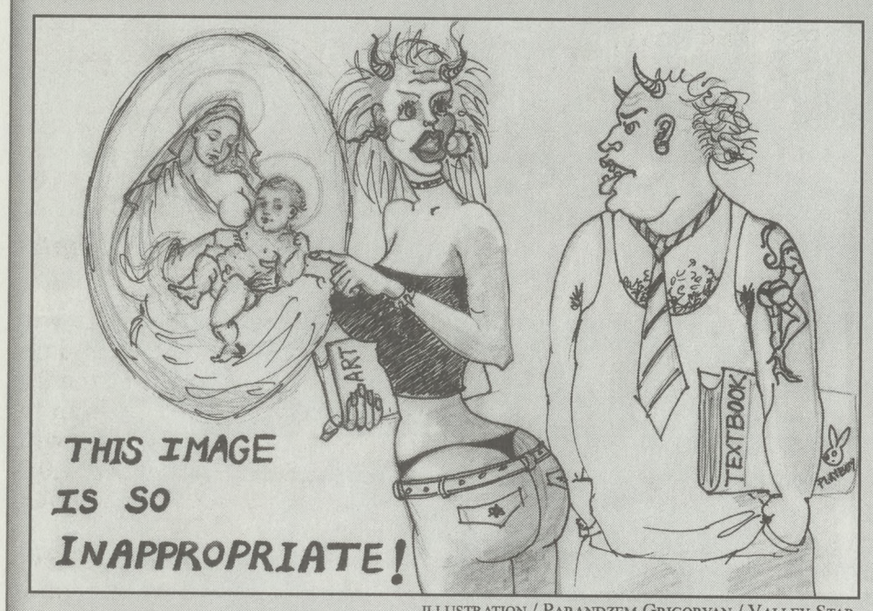


ILLUSTRATION / PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

People welcomingly embrace television shows like "Grey's Anatomy," where the doctors and interns have more sexual interaction than patient interaction with vivid visuals with no qualms, but the minute that Valley's psychology club uses a Sigmund Freud picture that shows a naked woman amidst a man's face as an advertisement, people decide it is too inappropriate to post; the contradictions here are endless.

This is a college campus filled with young adults and grown adults who have seen much more nudity in "The Wedding Crashers" than they see on this advertisement, but just because it is plastered around school as a promotion of a club people find it offensive enough to take down?

"We find it kind of ironic that an image that has a nude body, not necessarily in a sexual position or overtly sexual, is offensive when you can walk through the campus halls or in the art building and see all these violent images," said Solomon Smith, the Inter Club Council representative for Club Psyche. "It didn't seem appropriate that they tagged that."

Smith is right. Go take a look down the art halls, or even the art books that Valley students study from, and you can see many sculptures, still-life drawings and paintings, and graphic design projects, -- images of nude models that are considered works of art. There is no differentiation between this and the picture posted in the Behavioral Science or Math buildings, and there should not be a constraint on student expression because they are not located in the Art building.

To this day, it is still unclear who had enough of a problem with this advertisement to ask the ASU to take it down, just weeks after it had been sent through the approval process to be put up in the first place. With no one to blame and no one to appeal the decision with, it has left Club Psyche with the forced decision to take the ads down and go about finding a new, more "appropriate" picture to explain their club.

This all just proves that our sense of humor has depreciated, and our ability to take a joke for what it is, has been lost in the world today. People are spending more time worrying about being offended by something than realizing the humility of life and laughing at the things that are placed there to find humorous in the first place and to not take life so seriously.

Let's all just lighten up and let people express themselves the way this country has been brought up to allow us, shall we?

Fishin' for Psyche Suckers

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

When a used car salesman pawns an old truck, the advertisement in the Super Pennysaver lists the vehicle as clean, runs great and comes with a brilliant 2.0 Banda Surround Sound system. When the unwitting buyer appears at the car lot, they see a 1986 Dodge Ram with patches of burgundy primer, no tailgate and a man in a plaid suit and alligator hide shoes. This is the old bait-and-switch, and who more fitting to employ such unscrupulous mental manipulations than Valley's Psychology club.

"It's a very famous image. We weren't trying to be sexual in nature, or offensive. We wanted to arouse curiosity in our club," said Club Psyche president Jenya Lano. She sure did arouse something, and while it may not have been curiosity; it will certainly lead to increased club enrollment.

ILLUSTRATION / EDUARDO HERRERA / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Back in the days of yore, when dinosaurs roamed the earth and Pluto was a still one of our nine planets, I enrolled in Psyche 101. I was under the impression that psych was all about sex, and interpreting sexy dreams in order to better my sex life. Little did I know psych was an actual class and the syllabus consisted chiefly of learning about the brain, Maslow and his Hierarchy of Needs, and other such mind-numbingly platonic academic endeavors. The somewhat-racy naked lady Freud head-tattoo poster continues the tradition of coaxing the horny and curious into the field.

"I think it's a very tasteful logo and it has to do with psychology," commented Jenya Lano. "Its not sexual in nature." It sure is sexual in nature. The only place a naked woman wouldn't be considered sexual is right smack dab in the middle of West Hollywood.

Moreover, people on Valley's campus have proven themselves to be the most nitpicky, frivolously thin-skinned group of mostly 18-20-somethings on the planet. Surely the Valley Star's constant coverage of the veritable tsunami of anti-smoker hate revealed this unfortunate reality. While the Club Psyche logo may not offend the majority of planet earth, Valley's proletariat proudly picks up the slack.

Part of running a club, or any other public body, is knowing your membership and community. Club Psyche dropped the ball when they forgot what campus chartered them. One would think that Club Psyche, a group of people who pride themselves on being able to read minds, would know better.

Here's a great idea. Make a club about sex. Call it the Sex Club, a place where people gather to talk about sex, their fetishes and continue the age-old shaved vs not shaved debate. The Sex Club posters could, and should feature naked men and women, complete with hilariously oversized sensor bars. On the other hand, Club Psyche should have a picture of a brain; or maybe some neurotransmitters or something. Stop tricking people into thinking the Psyche Club is the Sex Club and maybe someone will take you seriously.

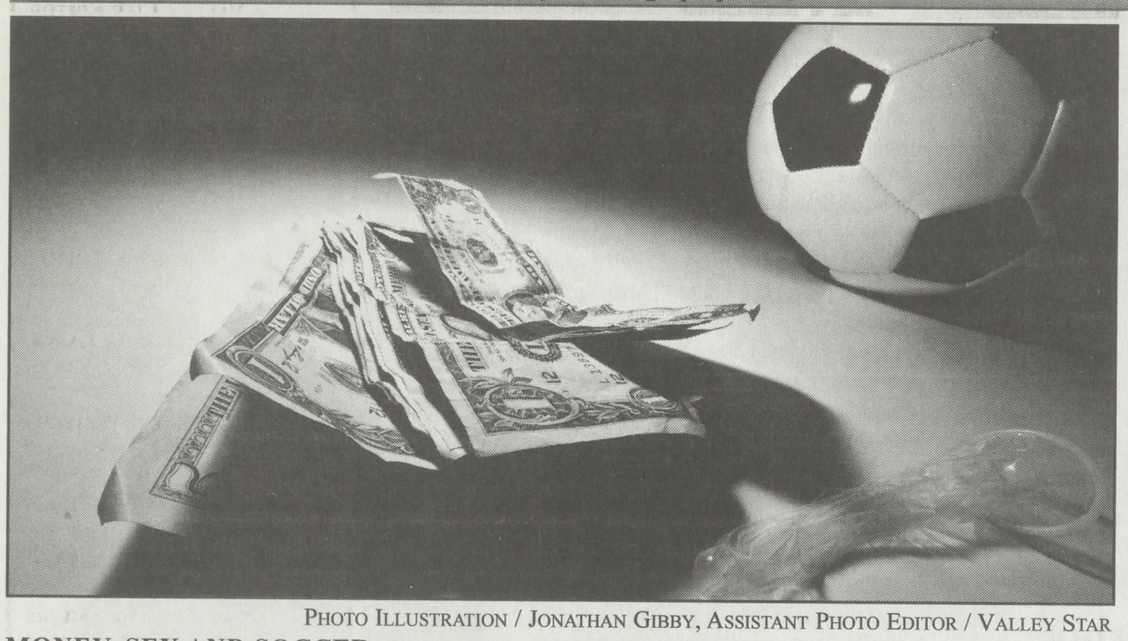


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

MONEY, SEX AND SOCCER- Caught with a triple-threat tag team of tranny prostitutes, soccer star Ronaldo found himself embroiled in a stupendously scandalous scandal.

Ronaldo's Tranny Trouble

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

Sex – By the time we hit college, we all know what it is and a sizable chunk of us are doing it. But when it comes down to it, what we do in our bedrooms (or wherever else) is no one's business but our own. Unfortunately, Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo had his sex life revealed to the public because of his encounter with three prostitutes at the end of April.

Ronaldo made a public apology for the incident on Brazilian television, which is pretty normal for any celebrity to do when embroiled in a scandal. But it wasn't the prostitutes he was apologizing for; he didn't even have sex with them, and regardless, prostitution is legal in Brazil. He was apologizing for the fact that they were men dressed as women, something he said he was unaware of until they all went to a motel to 'seal the deal.' Being a heterosexual male, he did not want to have sex with the prostitutes after that realization, something I can completely understand.

What I don't understand is why he should apologize for something that was a non-event. Yes, he was in the company of the prostitutes, yes he went to a hotel with them, but he didn't have sex with any of them. According to SportsIllustrated.com, Brazilian police are investigating an extortion attempt against Ronaldo, because the prostitutes demanded the equivalent of $30,000 U.S. to keep the story from the media. The manager of the hotel where the incident occurred said that Ronaldo did offer the prostitutes $600 to end their encounter, but it was not a bribe.

It should be the three prostitutes that apologize to Ronaldo and his fans for the whole debacle, not Ronaldo. Sportinglife.com has reported that two of the three prostitutes have admitted to lying about having sex and using drugs with the soccer star, but the damage has been done. Many news outlets have speculated that Ronaldo will lose sponsorship deals because of the scandal, and those who look up to him as a role model now see a tarnished reputation.

Sex scandals are a dime a dozen. If it wasn't Ronaldo we were reading about, it would be something about Miley Cyrus or some other Hollywood celebutante. In this instance, it is clear to see the hurt and embarrassment that can be caused when dirty laundry is aired for all to see. Though celebrities know that their lives are on display, no one deserves to have this happen to them, especially since there was no wrongdoing on Ronaldo's part.

LAPD Perpetuates Profiling

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Two weeks ago, the Los Angeles Police Department dropped 320 pending cases of racial profiling by its officers, and in doing so showed that justice may not be blind, but police officials are.

This is the sixth consecutive year that all allegations have been dismissed by the LAPD. According to facts obtained by the Los Angeles Times, there have been 850 racial profiling complaints in the last four years, without even one being sustained. You don't need to be a math major to see that this doesn't add up.

As someone who started at Valley College as a criminal justice major, (I couldn't be an officer because I am literally color blind) I find these figures very scary. Officers go through so much training on ethnic sensitivity that any complaint should be taken very seriously.

I understand that there must be a line drawn when it comes to racial tolerance and profiling. Police offers often have one hand tied behind their backs in the best of situations when it comes to dealing with criminals, and until you have put on a badge and patrolled the L.A. streets, we can't possibly know the pressures they are under. But a complete dismissal of every case seems more than suspicious.

"This is not a racist department," said Police Chief William Bratton. "It is not a homophobic department. It is not a brutal department. Does it have some officers that may be those things? Possibly. But we search very hard for them, and their numbers are very small."

Very small? The LAPD has an estimated 9,600 sworn officers, it is the fifth largest police force in the United States, what does very small mean to Bratton? By his admission, there is a problem, even on a small level. For every case to be thrown out shows a frightening trend towards turning a blind eye to the problem.

According the recent statistics, homicides in Los Angeles have risen 32 percent, including 15 officer-involved shootings in the last three months, and the L.A. SWAT team suffered its first casualty in its history. There is no denying being an LAPD officer is one of the toughest and most under appreciated jobs anyone can hold, but there must be accountability.

A number of studies have been commissioned to examine the behavior of our police officers and their methodology. Each one finds that Latino and black citizens are pulled over more frequently than whites, but the studies find no conclusive evidence as to why this happens. How many studies do taxpayers need to fund before we realize there is a problem?

I am afraid of what it will take for Bratton and company to listen to the citizens of Los Angeles. It is hard to be a cop here. I get that, but what about the people of our city? How hard is it for us to know that even a handful of officers with guns base their actions on the color of our skin?

There are no easy answers in a multi-racial city like Los Angeles, but if those we have trusted to "serve and protect" have an unlimited supply of get out of jail free cards in their deck, then how are the scales of justice balanced?

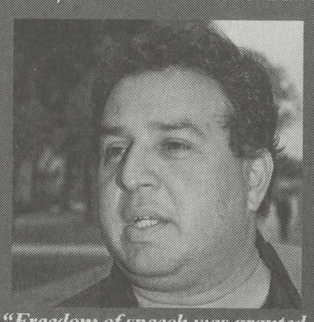
CAMPUS VIEW

photos by Jonathan Gibby, Assistant Photo Editor / Valley Star

Is the Club Psyche logo inappropriate?

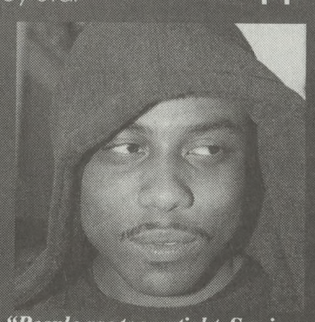
"It's appropriate. It's accurate, they're always thinking about sex. There will definitely be some protests, but that's OK Let them be offended by it."

-Vesna Schmid, nursing



"Freedom of speech was granted to us by our forefathers. Psychology is about looking beyond, if you only see the woman, it's superficial."

-Rigo Brule, liberal arts



"People are too uptight. Sex is always on our mind, but when it's brought to the surface people get afraid. The human body is beautiful."

-Ken Kerr, english

"It's college, it's how Freud thinks, and it's true. [People that find it offensive] are not open minded. It's art, interesting art, and it's a fact."

-Mariana Karapetyan, business

LAVC EVENTS

Wednesday, May 14

Free Wednesday Concert – Judy Huang, Piano @ 1 p.m. (Music 106); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Thursday, May 15

ASU Inter Club Council Mtg. @ 1-4 p.m. (Campus Center 104) – Contact: Sherri Rodriguez (818) 947-2702

Valley College Players presents Bullshot Crummond @ 8 p.m. (Horseshoe Theater) – Contact: Theater Arts (818) 947-2790

Friday, May 16

Valley College Players presents Bullshot Crummond @ 8 p.m. (Horseshoe Theater) – Contact: Theater Arts (818) 947-2790

Saturday, May 17

Valley College Players presents Bullshot Crummond @ 8 p.m. (Horseshoe Theater) – Contact: Theater Arts (818) 947-2790

Sunday, May 18

LAVC Choir Concert (Philharmonic Choir, College Choir, Vocal Jazz) @ 7 p.m. (Mainstage Theater); Admission: $5 – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

LAVC Astronomy Group Mtg. & Lecture @ 7-9 p.m. (Planetarium) – Contact: LAVC Astronomy Group (818) 947-2335

Monday, May 19

LAVC Wind Ensemble Concert @ 8 p.m. (Mainstage Theater); Admission: $5 – Contact: Chauncey Maddren (818) 947-2346

Tuesday, May 20

LAVC Performance Workshop Concert @ 11:30 am (Music 106); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Wednesday, May 21

Free Wednesday Concert – LAVC Jazz Ensemble @ 1 pm (Music 112); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Thursday, May 22

LAVC Performance Workshop Concert @ 11:30 a.m. (Music 106); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/ apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center
All events held in Career/Transfer Center unless other wise indicated. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.

Thursday, May 15

UCLA Rep 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
CSULA Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Undecided major/career workshop 5:30pm-6:30pm

Tuesday, May 20

TAP/Transfer Student Admit Luncheon 12:30 p.m. Monarch Hall
CSUN Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Additional content online - Go to

www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Travel

Getty Villa is a slice of the Mediterranean

KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

KRISTEN BECKER/ VALLEY STAR

IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO ITALY - This serene scene is at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The Getty Villa was designed with an actual Italian villa in mind and provides visitors with a quiet, Mediterranean atmospere.

Because Los Angeles is best known for its glitzy, star-studded Hollywood shindigs, the city and its residents often get unfairly labeled as shallow. To counter this limited view of the city, I decided to explore some of L.A.'s cultural offerings. After making my first and long overdue pilgrimage to the Getty Center, I decided to trek out to Pacific Palisades to see its sister museum, the Getty Villa.

The Villa itself and the grounds around it are gorgeous. You first sight of the Roman-inspired villa is from the top of a 450-seat outdoor theater. The museum's galleries surround two open-air courtyards, each containing gardens that transport the visitor back to the Mediterranean with their mix of plants, fountains and replicas of Roman statues

A great way to get a feel for the small, but dense museum and the 1,200 artifacts it has on display in its 23 galleries, is by tagging along on one of the free orientation tours that embark three times a day. My guide was very well-informed, if a bit dull, but she pointed out many of the Villa's more interesting offerings while discussing the architecture and the story that goes along with the villa (it's meant to resemble an excavation site, complete with an ancient villa that was uncovered by archeologists).

My first stop after the tour was the museum's main garden, the Outer Peristyle. It is located in a courtyard surrounded by a columned, covered walkway. As I strolled down the path through the almost deserted garden, I was able to enjoy the beautiful spring day.The sound of the water falling into the large fountain at the center of the garden and the cool breeze of the nearby Pacific Ocean refreshed and relaxed me, preparing me for the arduous task of roaming the seemingly endless galleries of the Villa. The museum is modeled after an ancient Roman villa found during excavations at Herculaneum – one of the cities, along with Pompeii, that was buried when Mt. Vesuvius erupted. It's perfectly manicured gardens are meant to be representations of what ancient Romans grew in their homes; the herb garden even contains rows of olive trees.

"The sound of the water falling into the large fountain at the center of the garden and the cool breeze of the nearby Pacific Ocean refreshed and relaxed me..."

Originally built in the 1970s on the grounds of J. Paul Getty's Spanish-style mansion to house his extensive art collection once it outgrew his home, (Getty's mansion still stands nestled against a hill at the back of the museum grounds, although it is off limits to visitors), the villa re-opened to the public in 2006 after nearly a decade of renovations.

Despite the beauty of the place, I was a bit disappointed by the Disneyfied feel of everything. The museum committed the same crime many so-called historical films commit – everything looked too bright and shiny and new.

Unless you enjoy tripping over hoards of school children giggling at the nude statues, plan any weekday visit for the morning. The museum is open Thursday through Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

It is necessary to plan any trip to the Getty Villa in advance. In order to gain admittance to the museum, you must have a timed ticket that is available only through the musuem's Web site. Admission is free, but parking is $8. Go to www.getty.edu/visit/ to get tickets or more information.

PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN/ VALLEY STAR

BULLSHOT CRUMMOND - Actors Nick De Nicola (left) playing Prof. Rutert Senton and Tracy McBurnett playing Lenya Von Bruno are two of the five actors who comprise the cast of the play Bullshot Crummond.

New Play at Valley is not full of "Bullshot"

SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

The Valley Collegiate Players' most recent production, "Bullshot Crummond," requires a different kind of humor to understand the idea. Theatre enthusiasts may get more of the in-jokes than the average amateur, but the troubles are universal enough for everyone to be amused.

Ron House, Diz White, John Neville-Andrews, Alan Shearman, and Derek Cunningham wrote the play in the late 1920s.

It becomes evident what the story is going to be like in the first five minutes: extremely witty dialogue, charming characters and cheesy music to bring it all together. Humor arises from the plot, which relies on bizarre coincidences and highly unlikely events.

The play involves a pre-World War I scheme by German Teutonic villain Otto Van Brunno (Addison Randall) and his evil mistress Lenya Von Brunno (Tracy McBurnett), who want to corrupt the diamond market by kidnapping Professor Rupert Fenton (Nick DeNicola), who has discovered a formula to create synthetic diamonds. Trying to dismantle their plan is Hugh "Bullshot" Crummond (R.M. Johnson), who is hired by Rosemary Fenton (Abby Martin-Stein), the professor's daughter.

Most of the play's humor comes from its enterprising efforts to recreate film effects onstage. At the beginning of the show, the Von Brunnos fly an airplane to England, then parachute out. This is represented by a model of a German aircraft dangling in front of the theatre curtain, then two dolls being tossed onto the stage from behind the curtain. The lights go out, and when they turn back on, the actors playing Otto and Lenya are onstage, covered by parachutes.

The play is designed to have five actors play 11 characters; DeNicola plays seven roles: Crummond's friend Algy, Professor Fenton, a not-so-bright policeman, a condescending waiter, a one-armed inspector, a German ex-military spy and a Cockney-accented crook with an eye patch. In addition to Otto, Randall also plays Salvatore Scalicio, a gangster from Chicago and repeatedly switches between the two roles is a scene that received the loudest roars from the crowd.

The actors are exaggerated in every manner – their laughter, facial reactions and even their acting, explaining cruelty as Indian burns, using toy guns, such as those found in Toys R Us, and a cardboard cut out bird that flies away as the actress moves her arms.

The characters are over-the-top stereotypes from old detective movies, almost like a cross between "The Pink Panther" and "Austin Powers."

Action, adventure, mystery, intrigue and romance hurtle hand in hand with aeroplanes, automobiles and incredible mechanism in a plot that is more complicated than our tax system.

"Bullshot Crummond" is playing at the Horseshoe Theatre on May 15, 16 and 17. Tickets for students are $10 and $15 for all others.

Last Club Day of Semester Fizzles

ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Clubs clustered in Monarch Square Wednesday for Labor Union Club Day to promote their organizations and inform Valley College students about the labor movement. The theme also served as an effort to publicize Dolores Huerta's visit to the campus. She is the co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America.

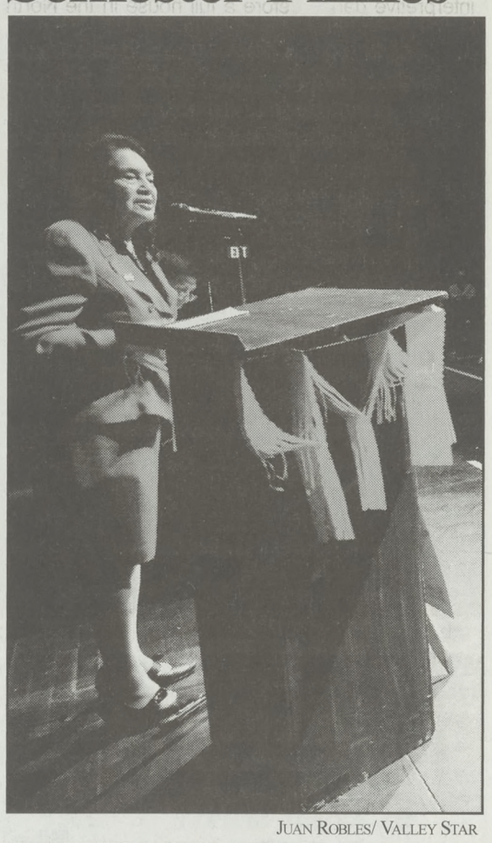
However, the last Club Day of the spring semester did not go as planned as representatives of some unions, like the United Food and Commercial Workers failed to show up.

"It just shows [UFCW] professionalism," said Brian Correa, member of the LAVC Puente Club, one of the sponsors of the Dolores Huerta event. "They were told [to come], and out of nowhere we called them today and they said that they forgot."

A similar story was heard a few tables down at the Lesbian Gender Bisexual Transgender and Questioning Club's booth.

"[The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting industry] were having a rough time, and not having enough visitors over to their booth and perhaps maybe slightly uncomfortable having been paired with our club, and they packed up quite early and left," said

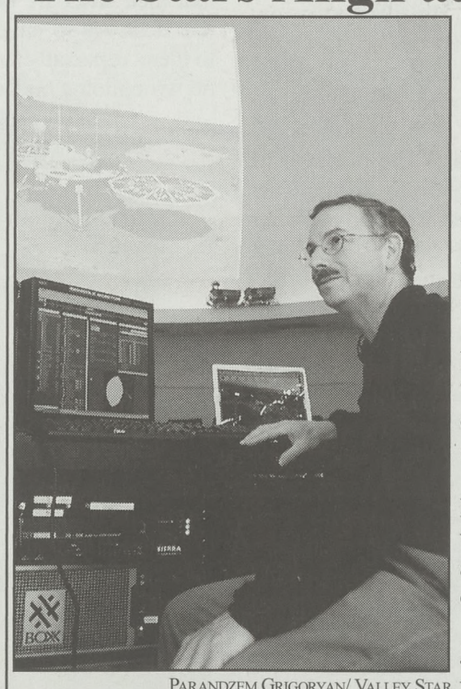
see *Club Day* page 5



JUAN ROBLES/ VALLEY STAR

ORGANIZED LABOR HEROINE -Co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America, Dolores Huerta gives a speech about the labor movement and history during labor union themed club day last Wednesday at Valley College.

The Stars Align at the Planetarium



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN/ VALLEY STAR

ONE LAST SHOW- Valley College's planetarium director David Falk watches the final show of the semester last Friday.

GRACIELA SALGADO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Valley College students glimpsed constellations, planets, black holes and quasars during the last star show of the semester, held at the school's Planetarium

"Welcome to the evening site here," said Professor David Falk. "Please don't step on the crickets, we need them for the next show."

According to Falk, the lack of crickets wouldn't be as bad as the city's light pollution, which is "caused by any lighting not shielded to be directed down." We lose contrast of the stars and it is hard to see them.

Falk pointed out constellations such as Ursa Major, which looks like a bear and Ursa Minor, which seems to be Ursa Major's baby bear. The audience even looked at the constellations Cancer the crab and Leo the lion.

Also, the audience had a closer look at Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Falk talked about some astronomy projects that are under way on Mars.

"Phoenix is to land near the ice cap in Mars on

see *Planetarium* page 5

Dance The Night Away

■ Valley College dancers perform before a full house in the North Gym for the "Emotions in Motion" concert .

SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Enticing movements, influential lighting, differential costumes and spectacular dance routines each told a unique story at the Valley College dance concert over the weekend.

"Emotions in Motion," the seventh annual Valleyspring dance concert was held on May 9 and 10, featuring Valley students and faculty. The program was produced by faculty member Geordie Wright and presented by the school's dance program.

More than 40 performers danced their hearts out in 13 different acts with music varying from hip-hop, tap, jazz and modern to a West African dance.

The first number "Seasons" began with four girls, one representing each season of the year. They floated around the stage in their simple pastel-colored costumes, like leaves floating in the autumn wind, moving in sync with every pulse.

The second act of the night began with 13 females and one male, each telling a personal story of who they are. "Do You See Me?" is a dance number which articulates each personality with no music, just text and movement. Each performer's outfit explained their own style, busting their own specialized steps, expressing the way they are distinctive, trying to make the audience see beyond their physical attributions. Their expressions, movements, reactions and words emphasized one thing, trying to make other see who "we" really are.

"That second dance had me going for a minute…I was actually trying to see each person as an individual by their clothes and attitude and dance moves," said Valley student Eric Johnson. "It's crazy how you can see who's the rocker, who's the hip-hopper, and who's the 'little miss prissy' just by their exterior."

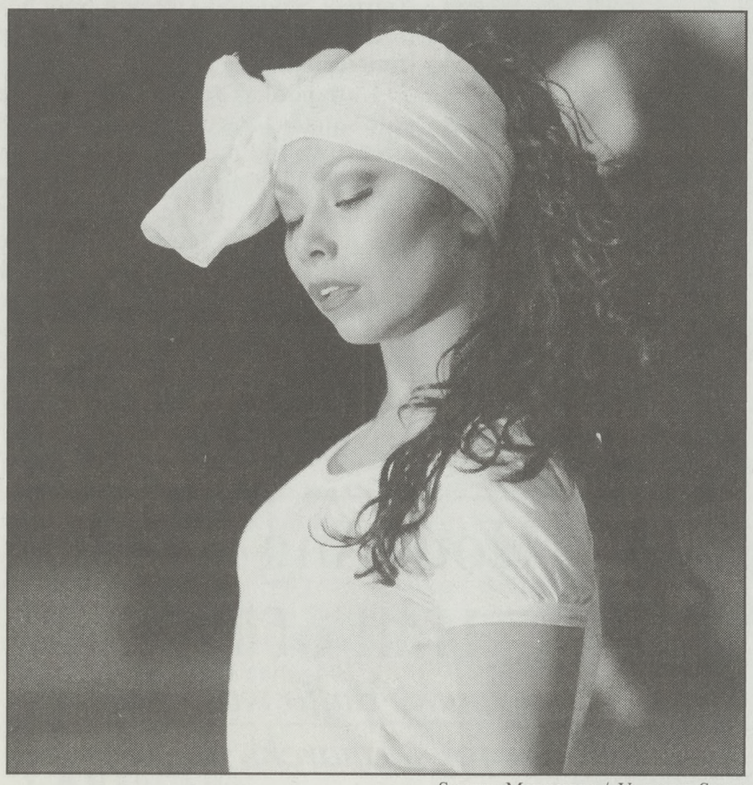
"Woman One," the beginning of a three part dance series was one of the crowd favorites. A choreographed dance expressed in three different scenes, it tells a story about a man, woman and his mistresses. These numbers takes you through an intense emotional experience filled with fear, love, anger, lust, laughter and sadness.

A dance sequence called "Freakshow" was a hip-hop infused mix. This dance started off with four dancers in dark, thick, hooded zip-up sweaters, dancing to Kanye West's "Stronger." The dancers bust their moves with break dancing, hip-hop and a little bit of booty shaking, ending the number with none other than Britney Spears', "Piece of Me?"

The last dance of the evening was a West African dance number called "Yemanjah." The word originates from the prominent African-American religion called Yoruba according to wikipedia.com. The dance symbolizes purity by having all 15 performers dressed in white as they began to move to the beat of the drum. The music got faster as the drum bangs harder. The viewer's pulse began to rise as everyone around started to clap. The entire audience was completely intrigued and mesmerized as the show came to an end and every performer entered the stage to take a bow to the beat of the drum.

SCOTT MITCHELL/ VALLEY STAR

GOSSAMER GODDESSES - Dancers wearing flowing frocks performed last Friday at the "Emotion in Motion' dance concert in the Valley College North Gym. The performances featured Valley students and faculty executing various dance disciplines.



SCOTT MITCHELL/ VALLEY STAR

FREEDOM IN MOTION-Valley College student Marisa Marquez, performs an interpretive dance before a full house in the North Gym during the "Emotion In Motions" dance concert Friday and Saturday nights.

'Club Day '

Continued from page 4

James Hart, vice president of the LGBTQ club.

But the few students who stopped by seemed not to notice the dilemma as Little Caesars Pizza, enchiladas, pastries and cookies captured their attention.

"I just took this free cookie," said Valley Student Anna Mkhikian.

Correa was happy that students attended the event. "It's good so far," he said.

But not all the clubs were interested in attracting Valley's epicureans.

"Our club is basically just to educate the public about clean money," said Andrea Barrera, Democracy Matters president. "I also work with the California Clean Money Campaign and they work actively to get full public funding in L.A."

According to Barrera, public funding for elections would make politicians more accountable to the public.

"It is common knowledge that if someone wants to run for office, the first thing they do is dial for dollars, and where do they go to do that?" she asked. "They start calling up corporations that they think will start backing them … and what happens is that once these people get into office they start paying them back."

Barrera also laments some of the public's lack of interest in social issues and their obsession with pop stars like Britney Spears.

"Everybody is just so curious about what's going on," she said. "Why don't you get curious about what's actually affecting you? Why do you want to pay $5 for gas at the end of the summer? I mean, stop it! Stop it! Stop it!"

At the end, Club Day might not have been a labor union encyclopedia, but the clubs and unions still managed to promote their own causes.

In "Brawl," Tires Don Exits

JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

His tilts do tons of damage, can KO, and out prioritize nearly everything. He has grenades that can kill, a missile launcher that can kill, two kinds of C4 that can kill, and a mortar that can kill. He can slide across the map in the blink of eye, chain-throw with a little techchasing, and his taunt does damage. He's overpowered, he's rigged, he's completely imbalanced. He's Snake, and if you agree, you're naïve.

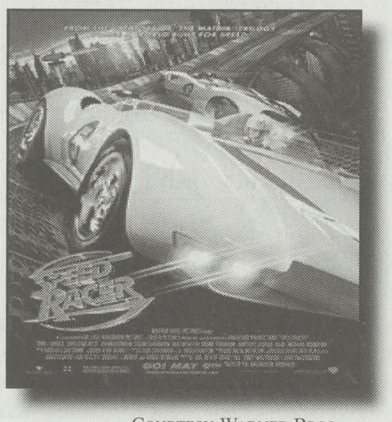
Sure, Snake has been winning tournament after tournament for the past couple months, but Shiek saw much more play during the dawn of Melee. Shiek had the top slot locked down tighter than a jar of pickles from 2002 until the dynamic duo of space animals usurped her in 2006.

The melee tier list fluctuated throughout the game's lifespan; it's shortsighted to assume that (in our vast knowledge) we can accurately predict Brawl's development. As recently as 2005 Falco and his pillar-y SHDLing glory wasn't even considered Top Tier and Shiek still dominated the metagame.

The changes between 2005 and 2006 are tremendous, with the top of 2005's tier list being Shiek, Fox, Marth, Peach and Falco. A mere year later the top Tiers changed drastically, ending up with Fox and Falco barrel rolling everyone else out of Top Tier, leaving Shiek, Marth, and Peach occupying High Tier.

Additional content online - Go to
www.lavalleystar.com

Wachowski Brothers Deliver the Need For Speed



COURTESY WARNER BROS.

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Watching "Speed Racer" is like drinking too many "Red Bulls" and freebasing Pixie Stix, but underneath the hood of this ultra violet candy-colored spectacle is a family film full of heart

The Wachowski brothers first outing since "'Thr Matrix" is based on the famous anime' cartoon about a youthful race- car driver and his close knit family who occasionally battle ninjas. The character created by Tatsuo Yoshida was based on the look of Elvis Presley and the secret agent adventures of the James Bond films of the 1960s.

Unlike previous CGI extravaganzas like "Transformers," this amped up adrenaline ride stays close to it's TV roots and never forgets to entertain. With all the whiz bang visual bombardment, the movie comes as close as possible to looking like a Pixar picture come to life.

Nearly every frame of this film is like a work of pop art, but this only takes the story so far. It is the actors who manage to save this project from self-indulgent celluloid. John Goodman and Susan Sarandon hold the center of this movie as Speed's loving parents, they anchor the story and bring some much needed maturity to a hyper-realistic world where the 1960s idealism collide with high-tech cityscapes.

Emile Hirsch does what he can with the limited role of Speed Racer, his Speed looks like James Dean but prefers milk and doing the right thing as opposed to being a rebel; Hirsch scrapes the walls of cheesy but manages to keep his car on the track. While big-eyed ingénue Christina Ricci takes the role of Speed's girlfriend Trixie and hits the gas, her go-go anime' gusto takes the lead in every scene she is in. Ricci seems to believe in the green screen world she is acting in, her wry smiles and clever sexual inuendos are never over-shadowed by her bright pink helicopter or Technicolor dream wardrobe.

The film hits some major speed bumps when Speed's little brother Spritle Racer and his chimp companion Chim-Chim are given too much screen time. The slapstick duo sap the kinetic pace and remind viewers the directors want you to know this is a kids movie; you know it's bad when Chim-Chim "cookies" aka poop are used as weapons.

For those who worry that the Wachowskis' have abandoned their high-kicking "Matrix" roots; there are plenty of Neo inspired fight sequences that combine ninja tactics with WWE body slams. Racer X played by "Lost" star Mathew Fox gives a nice edge to otherwise by the numbers cartoon action; he is a dark Batman stuck in a world of brightly lit Supermen. His baritone booming voice and black leather suit adds menace to the idealistic cheer of the other characters.

"Speed Racer" would be nothing without well the racing. And this is where some seizure inducing moments turn the screen into the world's biggest Hot Wheel track. Every type of carnival colored neo-futuristic car zooms across the track against Speed's trademark white Mach 5, with gadgets that would make James Bond's Aston Martin green with envy.

Speed crosses the finish line with strong family values and retina bursting visuals that while not perfect do justice to the cartoon and gives the summer the white checker flagged signal to hit the gas.

'Planetarium'

Continued from page 4

May 25 at 4:53 p.m. The last seven minutes will be decisive towards the research of Mars because Phoenix might not make it through its landing," said Falk. "They're looking for certain ions or metals to see if there might ever have been life on the planet."

Then, the audience saw a multimedia presentation about black holes, which are collapsed stars. It also talked about quasars, which are distant galaxies with massive black holes at their center.

One of the key points made in the video presentation was that black holes have a point of no return and nothing can escape them, not even light. Another one was that the brightest quasars are so bright that they can be seen from billions of light years away.

"It's amazing how black holes can suck in light and never let it out," said 12-year-old Gabriel Arevalo.

Black holes can provide the energy needed by quasars because objects in them are traveling at the speed of light. Energy is released as the matter falls in and before it reaches the point of no return. The energy is then converted into heat and light.

It is believed that galaxies would have a quasar in the center in the past, which means they all have a black hole as well. The more powerful the quasar, the more massive the black hole associated with it.

According to the presentation, the black hole found in the Milky Way, our galaxy, is 2.6 million times the mass of our own sun.

At the end of the show, a poster of Saturn was given away to a lucky winner.

"I enjoyed [the show] a lot," said communications major Tracee Porter. "After taking Astronomy 1 last semester, it was good to refresh my memory about black holes and quasars and understand a lot more about them."

TOP 5 STORIES @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Stimulus Payments Lines Students Pockets
By Shannon McHugh

Gas Prices Skyrocket, Students Ditch Cars
By Joe LaFleur

Life on Display at the Americana
By Elizeda Beltran

Dear Barack
By James Bennett

Dear John
By Shannon McHugh

WHAT'S NEW @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Summer Job Tips
By Sheila Koochak

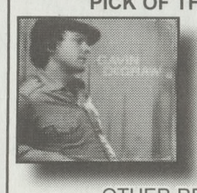
Valley Symphony Performs
By James Bennett

LAValleyStarWebcast
http://www.youtube.com/user/LAValleyStarWebcast

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



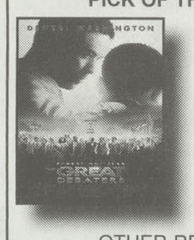
GAVIN DEGRAW, *GAVIN DEGRAW*

OTHER RELEASES:

Matmos, *Supreme Balloons*
See You in Magic, *The Night Marchers*
Craig David, *Trust Me*
James McMurtry, *Just Us Kids*

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



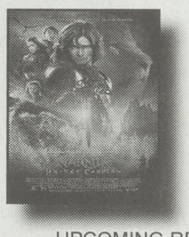
THE GREAT DEBATERS *Denzel Washington, Forest Whitaker*

OTHER RELEASES:

Mad Money
Untraceable
First Sunday
I'm Not There

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



THE CHRONICES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

UPCOMING RELEASES:

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, *Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf (MAY 22)*

CONCERT

PICK OF THE WEEK:

KROQ WEENIE ROAST Y FIESTA 2008
Metallica, The Offspring The Bravery Bad Religion, Rise Against

OTHER PERFORMANCES:

The Cure @ The Shrine Auditorium
The Cure @ The Hollywood Bowl
STP @ The Hollywood Bowl

DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

How to build a Wii in 10 minutes
How to create a Hi-Def speaker
Text Message Breakup
How to Irrigate Your Nasal Passage

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2008 Valley Sports Preview

Optimism Fuels Monarchs' Fall Sports Outlook

By Eric L. Patten
Sports Editor

With spring sports officially over May 19, nearly four months rest between now and the introduction of the next group of Monarch athletes.

Football, women's soccer, cross country, and men's and women's water polo will mark the passing of a lazy summer, but it's never too early to start discussing it.

On the gridiron: Valley (2-8 in 2007) starts the season at home against the Ventura Pirates. The game is a rematch of the Monarch's 2007 homecoming debacle, which was decided 16-15 on two botched kicks. With workhorse running back Anthony Dickson transferring to UC Berkeley, one of the team's biggest question marks will be if incumbents James Walker and Ryan Kidd can tote the load. Walker, who spelled Dickson on several occasions last year, may have the inside track. At 5 foot 10 inches and 215 pounds, he's a punishing runner, with enough agility to turn the corner on most defenses in the Western State Conference.

Head coach Jimmy Sims hired coordinator Dameon Porter to help address some of last season's offensive shortcomings. Porter is faced with reviving an offense that has perennially ranked near the bottom of the conference and replacing key players on the offensive line and in the backfield. Conference play begins Sept. 27 with a road matchup against Santa Monica.

Paul Olden, Photo Editor / Valley Star

LOOKING AHEAD TO FOOTBALL - Valley College running back James Walker (15) will be back this fall to carry the ball for the Monarchs.

Goals, goals, goals: The Lady Monarchs soccer team can only improve following a dismal 2-17-2 record in 2007. After winning two of their first three games, they lost 17 of their next 19. The team scored one goal over the final eight games. However, they return to the field with nearly their entire roster intact. With a newfound experience level, head coach Shane Watkins may see a shift in the team's fortunes. For the Monarchs to succeed, sophomore goalie Jocelyn Mercado will need to continue her improvement from the end of last season. The team's first chance at redemption is on Aug. 30 at Oxnard College's Sea Breeze Tournament.

Take the tape: The men's and women's cross country teams were not running from behind as often as a number of other Monarch squads last year. The men placed 18th in the state and the women finished 12th. Mekka Edwards-White, one of last season's top runners, returns along with Martha Alvarado, Erika Lopez and Kathy Rodriguez. On the men's side, 16 possible sophomore returners include state qualifiers Andrew Salg and German Sanchez. Both teams run in the Moorpark Invitational Aug. 30 at 10:00 a.m.

New pool: The Monarch's water polo squads look to improve in 2008, after both the men and women finished with losing records. One major consolation will be the completion of the pool renovation project (tentatively scheduled to conclude on July 1). Both teams return more than half of their roster, but the men must replace All-American Jason Falitz. The men face Fullerton on Sept. 2 at Valley, while the women meet Cypress on the road Aug. 28.

Spring Sports End With Mixed Results

Track Team and Divers Reach State Finals, Softball and Baseball Miss Postseason

By Dennis Alamina
Staff Writer

As the 2008 spring semester comes to an end at Valley College, so do the sports for the session.

Now, we go back to recap the top players and team performances for baseball, softball, track and field, and swimming and diving.

The Monarch baseball team finished with a 5-3 win over Bakersfield, but with a record of 24-20, 16-12 in the Western State Conference, they missed the playoffs by one game. Two of the team's top players were pitcher and designated hitter Drew Vassil, who threw more than 120 innings, and shortstop J.P. Hollywood. Vassil, Hollywood and outfielder Angel Nunez were selected first team All-Conference.

The softball team finished with an identical record to the baseball team. At 24-20 (17-18 in the conference), they were a few games away from the playoffs. Starting pitcher Sasha Snyder and catcher Jessica Velasquez stood out through most of the season.

"We couldn't have done it with out each other, it has been a rough and strong season for us both," said Velasquez. "But we turned out to have a pretty successful season."

Following the season, Velasquez was honored as the WSC Blue Division's Player of the Year.

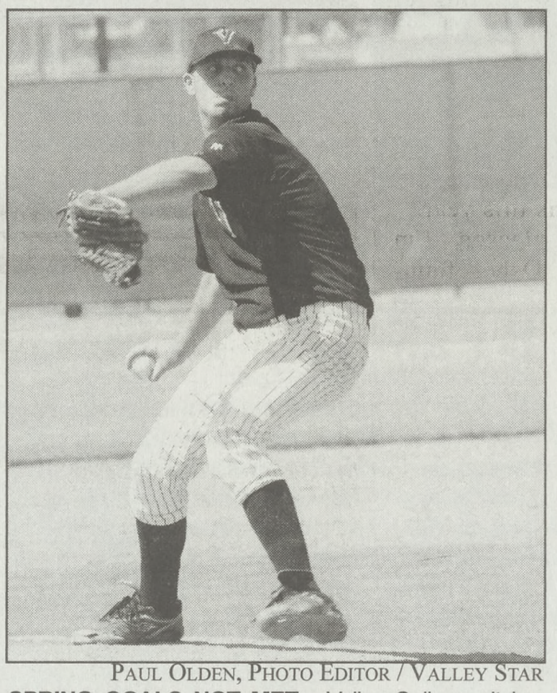
Getting into swimming and diving, we recognize Jacob Cook and Adam Mandel Senft as two of the Monarchs' best in the pool. Divers Gene Williams and Tiffanie Wright qualified for state championships, with Wright ultimately being selected as the Conference's Most Outstanding Diver.

Lastly, the track and field season was successful as well. Jeanne Atangana, Mekka Edwards-White and Sylvia Alboniga performed well all year. The women's team ranked second in the 400-meter hurdles. Valley selected men's runner Andrew Salg as the Athlete of the Month for April.

Western State Conference
SUPREMACY AWARD STANDINGS

Rnk	School	# Teams	Points
1.	Ventura	18	123.0
2.	Cuesta	16	97.3
3.	Bakersfield	18	83.0
4.	Canyons	16	79.0
5.	Santa Barbara	17	78.6
12.	Valley	14	34.0

The "Supremacy Trophy" is awarded to the community college with the highest cumulative standing in men's and women's sports from fall through spring. In 45 years the Monarchs have never won the award.



Paul Olden, Photo Editor / Valley Star

SPRING GOALS NOT MET - Valley College pitcher Drew Vassil was on the mound during the stretch run as the Monarchs sought a playoff spot. But Valley fell just short of the postseason and finished the regular season with a 24-20 record.

As the season ended the final conference Supremacy Award Standings were released. The award is given the school with the best overall sports program. Valley finished 12th with 34 points. Ventura College won the award with 123 points.

With spring winding down, the team's will focus on recruiting new players for 2009.

Honoring a Fallen Hall of Famer

■ *Jimmy Buffo was Linebacker for Monarchs in Early 80s*

By Shannon McHugh
Staff Writer

VALLEY GLEN—Valley College, particularly the Athletic Department, is mourning the loss of former football player and hall of famer, 46-year-old Jimmy Buffo, who passed away at his home Monday night, in his sleep.

Jimmy "The Stump" Buffo played middle linebacker for the Monarch football team from 1982-1983, where he was recognized as College Defensive MVP and All-Western State First Team and California College All-State Team, before playing for California Lutheran College.

Buffo returned to Valley in 1987, this time as a coach. During his tenure, he was also beginning a career as a professional boxer, becoming an original member of the Ten Goose Boxing family. He began training and in December of 1996 he knocked out Lyle Barron, and continued, compiling a 3-0 record all wins by knockouts.

Valley's pride and appreciation of Buffo led to his induction into Valley's inaugural Hall of Fame last June.

"My sister and her husband, Denny, lost a great son way too soon," said Dan Goossen, Buffo's uncle. "For my brothers and myself, he was a great friend and a major part of our family and business. We will miss him greatly, but his ability to put smiles on our faces will live on forever."

A funeral mass will be held in his memory on Monday, May 19, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Sherman Oaks. The service begins at 6:30 p.m.

Opinion: Trojans Should Have Held the Mayo After All

By Eric L. Patten
Sports Editor

When West Virginia high schooler O.J. Mayo enrolled at USC last summer, we knew two things were inevitable: He was the biggest "get" in the program's basketball history and he was only sticking around for one year.

While his presence and NBA-ready talent brought immediate attention to the city's other hoops program, he also brought trouble with him.

Now, with the one-year Mayo experience officially over on the court, the Trojans are left to clean up all of his issues off it.

According to ESPN's "Outside the Lines," the 6-foot 5-inch guard broke National Collegiate Athletic Association rules by accepting cash and benefits from Los Angeles events promoter Rodney Guillory. According to the report, Guillory received more than $200,000, but only shared a fraction of the money with Mayo. These violations date to Mayo's senior year at Huntington (West Virginia) High School through his only season with USC.

This should come to no one's surprise. Knowing more about a player's transgressions away from the court than his box score on it probably should have been a vivid warning.

Sports Illustrated lobbed praise at Mayo as a seventh grader in 2002. Four years later, he was a teenager drawing fans to the gym like comic book readers to "Iron Man."

But his on-the-court talents have rarely come without incident.

He was a basketball vagabond, moving from West Virginia to Kentucky to Ohio and, finally, back to West Virginia. He was cited for marijuana possession, a charge later dropped after two of the individuals with him took responsibility. He bumped an official. He fought with classmates, committed to the Trojans without visiting the campus and seemed more interested in creating an aura in image-conscious Los Angeles than preparing for the next level.

Still, we loved the idea of a kid with Magic's flair and Lebron's hype coming to the Pac-10.

And if any of us thought Mayo's negatives were an issue, USC head coach Tim Floyd and Mayo's teammates insisted that they weren't.

In March 2007, Floyd defended his recruit to ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption" saying, "Yeah, he got in a couple of fights in high school, but I did too."

Sophomore forward Taj Gibson told ESPN, "He's been one of the guys, hanging with all of us. He's been a great teammate."

We believed it.

Then, Mayo took tickets to a Lakers game from his friend Carmelo Anthony. Floyd called it "ignorance" on his own part, and said Mayo was not to blame.

When Mayo allegedly punched teammate Daniel Hackett in the jaw, Floyd and Hackett dismissed it like we'd be crazy to think otherwise.

Even when the Trojans struggled on the court this year, they were routinely excused because they were compelling and young.

They were full of what ifs. "What if Gabe Pruitt and/or Nick Young came back?" and especially, "What if O.J. likes school so much he decides to stick around?"

Now we know the answer. Stupid us. But shouldn't USC face a heap of the criticism. It was less than a year ago that we were excusing the university from any misconduct in the [illegible] money and the school didn't know about it, how can they be punished?

However, now it appears likely that Mayo took money while he was a student, too.

And once again, USC denies any wrongdoing.

But how many times, with how many high profile players, are they to be excused? The university prides itself on running pro style programs, but it's still collegiate athletics. There are rules, and athletic director Mike Garrett and Co. should understand that if they're going to have elite athletes on campus, they have to ramp up their compliance efforts, not shrink back to better avoid responsibility if anything should go wrong.

Plausible deniability isn't a good defense. At least not the second time around.

2008 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S WATER POLO
9.2 (Tue.) vs Fullerton 3:00 p.m.
9.5 (Fri.) @ Golden West TBA
9.11 (Thu.) vs El Camino 3:00 p.m.
9.12 (Fri.) @ Mt. SAC TBA
9.16 (Tue.) vs Santa Ana 3:00 p.m.

STARTING FIVE

WOMEN'S WATER POLO
8.28 (Thu.) @ Cypress 3:00 p.m.
9.11 (Thu.) vs El Camino 4:00 p.m,
9.13 (Sat.) @ El Camino TBA
9.16 (Tue.) vs Santa Ana 4:15 p.m.
9.19 (Fri.) @ Mt. SAC TBA

'Huerta'

continued from page 1

people of all colors, genders and creeds," Mejorado said. "We can transcend borders of all types and build bridges with the world."

Huerta is best known for joining with Cesar Chavez and organizing California's farm workers, helping them fight for better working conditions. She explained that although they did "backbreaking and brutal" work, picking "tons of fruit [and] tons of vegetables in one day," and did not have basic necessities, such as a bathroom or cold drinking water available to them in the fields and made around 70 cents a day.

The event, sponsored by the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute as well as on-campus organizations Puente Club, M.E.Ch.A, CalPIRG and the Los Angeles Valley College Faculty Guild, aimed to inform students not only about the contributions of the UFW, but of labor unions in general. Huerta also explained that the labor movement helped create public education, workplace safety standards, workers compensation and social security.

Although she talked about what unions have achieved, Huerta did not shy away from controversial topics, such as the racism that made it possible for workers in other industries to form unions, but not the farm workers because they were mostly Mexican or African-American.

Guadalupe Burgara, co-chair of the Puente Club and a former intern at the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute helped organize the discussion, as well as the Labor Fair that took place in Monarch Square in the hopes of teaching students about the importance of labor unions.

"[Unions are] so important because there are a lot of jobs that don't pay fair wages and a lot of [Valley students] are undocumented students that have parents who do those kind of positions and it's unfair," Burgara said. "I hope they realize how important their voice is, and their participation, and make a commitment."

Although the event focused on the importance of labor unions, Valley President Tyree Wieder took the opportunity to remind those in attendance to take action.

"I want you to pay attention very, very hard because when you listen today, you will learn about a woman who has incredible passion and if you can come up with the same amount of passion and will that she has, you are really going to be successful people," she said. ". . . You're also going to learn how you can take this information and you can then do something for your community, just as she has done."

'Donation'

continued from page 1

college system. The donation money will go to a number of recipients, and help pay for textbooks and supplies to uniforms and tools.

"This gift is going to make such a difference in the lives of our students," said Chancellor Diane Woodruff, CEO of the California Community College's Board of Governors. "It will make a difference in whether they succeed in getting a college education or drop out."

"This gift is going to make such a difference in the lives of our students.... whether they succeed in getting a college education or drop out."

- Diane Woodruff

The grant will create 1,300 annual scholarships worth $1,000 a piece during 2009. The donation consists of a $25 million donation upfront and another $25 million follow-up donation, eventually resulting in a $100 million scholarship fund at the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

"We really thought it is time, especially with all the budget reductions in public education, for private philanthropy to stand with the community colleges," said Osher Foundation President Mary Bitterman in an interview with the L.A. Times.

While it is uncertain whether or not Valley will benefit from the Osher Foundation's donation; however, the LAVC Foundation is no stranger to private donors. The foundation, a non-profit arm of Valley College raked in a total of $110 thousand last year and $135 thousand in private donations this year.

"I am very pleased. I'm grateful to the Osher foundation for considering community colleges," commented Raul Castillo, executive director of Foundation and Community Relations at Valley. To have a foundation such as the Osher make such a large commitment to specifically community colleges is wonderful, I hope others will suit."

Recipients are determined by criteria set either by the foundation, the donor, or the board to which the scholarship was delegated. In general, the independent LAVC Foundation Scholarship Committee dictates to whom 45 percent of the money is awarded, while the recipients of the other 55 percent is decided by small groups and boards.

The aforementioned scholarship committee consists of Valley alumni, local business representatives and faculty.

Private donations run the gamut of educational levels, with donors contributing to everything from elementary schools to top tier universities. Last year, the New York Times reported that various consultants estimated that more than 5,000 philanthropic foundations, similar to the one discussed above, exist nationwide.

Private donations run from paltry to pythonic; such as an $850 donation to a New Jersey middle school to create a ballroom dancing program. The same district received $14,000 to purchase mountain bikes; illustrating how large, and small donations combine to create a more robust academic program.

"Public education is free, but an excellent public education is not free..." commented Janet Baker, president of the Davis Schools foundation in an interview with Philanthropy Today.

'Psyche'

continued from page 1

"I do see why they wanted me to take it down; I can see someone finding it offensive, but I don't think that's reason enough to not let them stay up," Lano said. "I think it's a very tasteful logo and it has to do with psychology. It's not sexual in nature."

LACCD Board Rule 9903.10 states that posting of materials on bulletin boards shall be subject to the limitations concerning the manner of exercising students' rights of free expression in Free Speech Areas. Students are expected to monitor the content of their speech so it is not obscene.

Nisha Ahmed, ICC senate representative said that clubs do not need to present their logo to the council, as it is Student Services who approves them.

"It has a nude woman on it, but the reason it is there is because not a lot of people perceive the image that way," Ahmed said. "This is a not a flier advertising pornography, but rather the psychology of how people perceive things...."

Head of Valley's Psychology Department Ron Mossler believes that Student Services should have spoken with him or the faculty sponsors of the club before telling the club to remove the fliers.

"I do not think the logo should have been removed ... It is a drawing and serves to provoke thought," Mossler said. "I believe the vast majority of students would agree that the drawing does not come close to being illicit."

Mossler also said that he uses the drawing in question as a learning tool, to help his students to understand unconscious thought.

Solomon Smith, alternate ICC representative for Club Psyche says the club followed all guidelines when posting the fliers around campus, and removed the fliers as soon as they were asked to.

"I just think it's strange that one person can decide what can be used and what can't be used."

- Jenya Lano

"[The ICC] didn't see anything wrong with it," he explained. "We turned it in, we got it stamped, we posted them on campus. To this date, we still haven't been told what it is that the person found inappropriate."

Jenya Lano said that the club will change the logo, but is unsure of what the new image will be.

"I just think it's strange that one person can decide what can be used and what can't be used, when in a lot of peoples' opinion, [the logo was deemed] appropriate."

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

NOT READY YET - The heavy duty construction equipment is gone, but some smaller machines are still on site at Valley College as work continues on the Allied Health and Science center that was originally scheduled to be open this spring.

'Sustainable'

continued from page 1

old site in the middle of the city that's not being utilized as opposed to going out to green field and cutting down new trees, you get points for that," he said. "If you build a site that's near ... public transportation, so that your employees are not paying money for gasoline for cars to get to work, you get extra points for that."

Two of Valley College's buildings are LEED certified – the Allied Health and Science Center and the Maintenance and Operations building. The latter began its life as certified and now is at silver and the Allied Health and Science Center is almost at gold.

The points are reaped through economic gains in the long run, increased productivity, better health benefits, and longer life expectancy for a building, when the quality of the space is LEED certified.

"The long term cost of savings is so significant that the initial cost is now not only zero, but shouldn't even be considered, because the long time savings are so tremendous," Veseliza explained. "We're talking about years, a couple of years of payback."

Looking at it from another business perspective, Veseliza sees a great financial opportunity going into the cleaning product business.

"I mean, if you were to do nothing but train people to clean buildings, you'll be a millionaire, literally, you should do it," he said. "Hotels are desperate for people who understand sustainability. Nobody's training them, this college could do it."

Robert Rincon, the senior project manager of URS who attended the event, agrees that LEED building is an up-and-coming field, which is why he lamented that only four people attended the event.

"I think it was sad that a lot of students didn't show up to it," Rincon said. "It's an up-and-coming field that's very important to everyone in our society. I think that maybe a little bit more information could have been presented for potential career paths for students in the field of sustainability."

Tania Roton, office manager for URS, would have liked to see a more detailed and well-attended lecture.

"[The presentation] was informative in a general sense, but maybe next time there's enough notice and is well-advertised."

'Election'

continued from page 2

Valley College. "Short of another Reverend Wright type episode, I just think it's Barack at this point.

However, O'Regan does not foresee Clinton getting out of the race anytime soon.

"I think she'll put a spin on this ... after winning West Virginia," he said. "I just don't see how she gets there mathematically. I mean she cannot get there short of Michigan and Florida's delegates being counted."

It is yet to be seen if the votes cast in the Florida and Michigan elections will count; Clinton won both states. The Democratic National Committee stripped the states of their delegates because they held their primary elections earlier, breaking the DNC's rules regarding the timing of the contests.

"If people bring Florida and Michigan, I'm simply going to say, rules are broken, you can't break the rules," said Benjamin Moyer, a Valley student.

"...I have reached the conclusion that Barack Obama can best bring about the change that our country so desperately wants and needs."

- Donald Payne

With just six primaries left, the New York Times reported that Obama and Sen. John McCain of Arizona have started to see each other as opponents in the general election.

According to the article "the two sides said Saturday that they would be open to holding joint forums or unmoderated debates across the country in front of voters through the summer."

The next primaries will take place May 20 in Kentucky and Oregon.

'Pool'

continued from page 1

Disabled Students Program and Services and lessons. Accessibility will also be enhanced by adding ramps and railings.

The smallest pool is designed as a warm-up pool for divers, where the water will be kept at warm temperatures for muscle relaxation during competition. The warm-up pool will be able to hold up to 10 swimmers.

The Olympic-sized pool will be used by the diving, water polo and swim teams for both training and competition.

The pool will also be opened to the Monarch Day Camp, which will put 500 grade-school-aged students in a camp environment to teach them how to swim, go on hikes and outdoor field trips.

"It's a great opportunity for kids," said Stark.

Students on campus are looking forward to the opening of the pools, saying that it will present many opportunities.

"I'm excited about the new pool," said Valley student David Garcia. "I want to bring my little brother here so he can learn how to swim."

'Myanmar'

continued from page 2

who are only now beginning to respond.

The World Health Organization has flown emergency medical supplies into Myanmar and vital aid is being distributed among hundreds of thousands of those affected by Cyclone Nargis. It is also working closely with the Myanmar Ministry of Health and is closely monitoring for any outbreaks of infectious disease, including dengue fever, malaria and respiratory tract infections, as well as restoring public health control measures.

With Myanmar's Asian neighbors China and India trying to provide support, nations from around the world have been doing what they can to aid the stricken nation. Pakistan has dispatched two C-130 aircrafts carrying relief items, including tents; medicine and water purification tablets, while a U.S. military cargo plane was unloaded in Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, with water; blankets and mosquito nets.

Japan and the United Kingdom pledged $10 million each in immediate aid, while other Asian nations such as Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore have each donated between $200,000 and $1 million.

SWEET DEAL - As a parting gift for their labor, students picked some strawberries for the trip home.

Students Get Natural At Organic Farm

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY
JOHN PHILLIPS

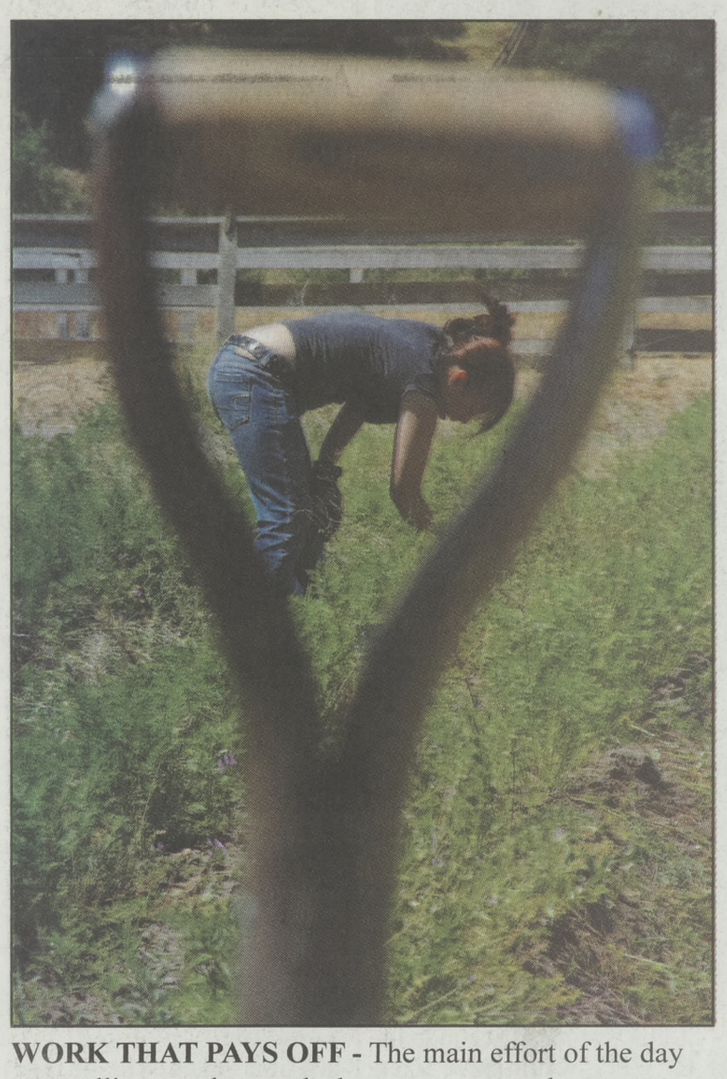
LAYOUT BY
JONATHAN GIBBY

Valley College geography Professor Greg Schwartz led a field trip of his students from Valley, Cal State Northridge, and West Los Angeles College May 3 to an organic farm in north San Diego County.

The Tierra Miguel Farm sits in the fertile Pauma Valley surrounded by the avocado and citrus groves of conventional farming operations. Dedicated to the sustainable practices of community-supported agriculture, Tierra Miguel grows a variety of row crops including carrots, strawberries and cauliflower.

The Los Angeles area students were given a unique opportunity to see and participate in the operation of an organic farm. Mil Krecu, who left a desk job in Los Angeles to pursue his interest in farming, encouraged the students to consider joining the next generation of organic farmers.

HANDS ON - Mil Krecu, who runs Tierra Miguel Farm, shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for community-supported agriculture with the visiting students.



WORK THAT PAYS OFF - The main effort of the day was pulling out the weeds that grow among the carrots.

TEACHING - Professor Greg Schwartz, left, points out a geological feature of the Pauma Valley to his students.

HARD WORK - Dirty clothes and sweat are the rewards for these city slickers as they loaded bales of straw, an authentic farm hand experience.